



Abendroth keeps a flock of 200 swans on 8 acres surrounded by a chain-link fence.

**"THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL AND GRACEFUL"**

## Swan Farmer Likes His Good-Looking Flock

"They're nice to have around because they're so beautiful and graceful," says Carroll Abendroth, Waterloo, Wis., about the swans he raises on his farm near Waterloo, Wis.

Abendroth keeps a flock of about 200 swans on 8 acres surrounded by a 4-ft. high chain link fence. Currently, all of the swans swim in one large pond. However, Abendroth plans to add 60 small aerated ponds so each pair of swans will have its own fresh water. He also plans to install 30- by 60-ft. nesting pens.

He sells about 10 breeding pairs a year, as well as others of all ages. Proved nesting pairs sell for \$1,000 to \$1,300. A pair of male and female yearlings sell for \$600 per pair while a month-old cygnet sells for \$200.

"You won't get rich from raising swans, but it's well worth doing," says Abendroth, who's been raising swans for over 10 years. He and his sons, Rick and Randy, also raise

turkeys, chickens, pheasants, quail, peafowl, and Snow and Canada geese. They also have a worm business.

Abendroth's customers include breeders and zoos, as well as people who just want swans to "dress up" parks, golf courses, or business complexes. He has sold swans as far away as Europe.

Whoopers, weighing about 35 lbs. and having a 5-ft. wingspread, are the largest species that Abendroth owns. His flock also includes several Black Australians.

Each swan is pinioned - the wing tip feathers of one wing are removed so the bird can't fly. European guard dogs watch over the swans to keep them safe from predators.

The birds are fed pellets especially formulated for swans.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carroll Abendroth, W8694 Island Road, Waterloo, Wis. 53594 (ph 414 478-2053).

## NUTS, BOLTS, WIRE, WASHERS, NAILS, ETC.

### Toy Farm Equipment Made Out Of Junk

What makes these tractors, combines and other built-from-scratch farm toys unique is that the man who made them, Lyle Webster, Fostoria, Kan., built them entirely out of "junk" parts including nuts, bolts, wire, washers, nails, and scrap iron and tubing.

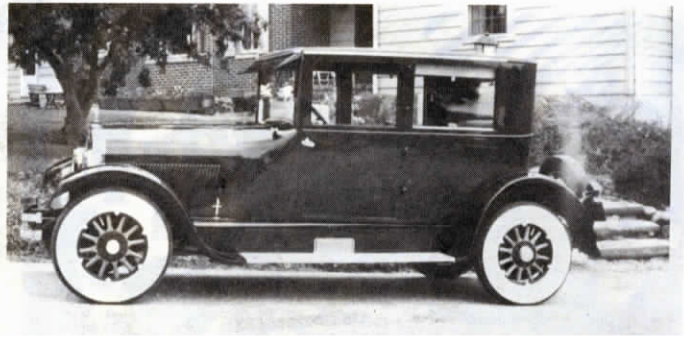
The retired service station operator and equipment repairman, who has been closely associated with farmers all his life, has built more than 80 toy tractors, Caterpillars, wagons, threshers, and other farm equipment over the past 2 1/2 years.

"People who see them on display at a local cafe and other businesses are amazed at how realistic these replicas are," says Webster's daughter, Shelly Nibarger. "He

created them mostly from memory with the use of a few simple hand tools including a welder, tin snips, hacksaw, pliers and vice grips. They're meant to be display items rather than actual toys since most of them are a little on the heavy side. Most have wheels that turn and other movable parts."

Nibarger says what draws the most attention is the precision detail of Webster's creations as well as the factory paint jobs and detailed stenciling. "The toys are both art and history. They're very unique," she says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lyle Webster, Fostoria, Kan. 66426 (ph 913 457-3678).



This 1925 Case model X Suburban Coupe is the only one known to exist today.

**IT WAS IN A CLASS WITH PACKARDS, CADILLACS, AND PIERCE ARROWS**

## Collector Owns Rare 1925 J. I. Case Car

Many farmers probably don't know that in addition to tractors, J.I. Case also made cars in the 1920's. Herbert Wessel of Hampstead, Maryland, has proof. He owns a 1925 Case model X Suburban Coupe - the only 1925 "Model X" known to exist today. He often takes it to local tractor and car shows.

Wessel bought the one-of-a-kind car at an estate sale in 1988 and completely restored it the following year.

"I traced the car back to the original owner, G.B. Gunlogson, of North Dakota. I'm the fourth owner. When I bought the car it was in reasonably good condition except for the Continental 55 hp, 6-cyl. engine which needed work. Also the interior was in bad shape," says Wessel.

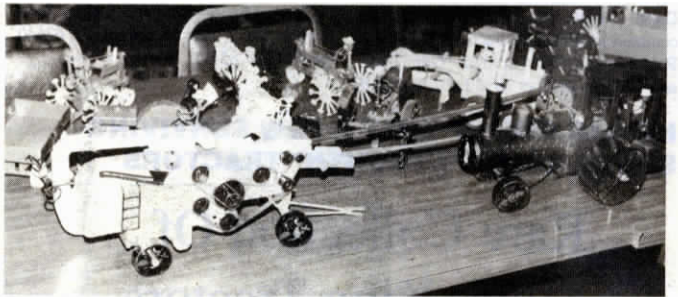
"Case got in the car business when it acquired the Pierce Racine Car Company (no connection with Pierce Arrow cars), also of Racine, in about 1910. Production ended in 1927. They thought every farmer would buy a Case car because of the company's excellent reputation for tractors and steam engines. Unfortunately, Case cars sold for over \$2,000 while a Model T Ford could be bought for only about \$400. It was hand-built, not assembled in a production

line like Fords.

"Case cars were in a class with top-of-the-line cars like Packards, Cadillacs, and Pierce Arrows. Fewer than 30,000 were ever built. Only about 1,000 were built in 1925 of which 139 were the model X like mine. Fewer than 100 Case cars of all models and years are known to survive today."

Wessel says anyone wanting more information on Case cars or any other Case equipment may be interested in the book "Full Steam Ahead" by David Erb and Eldon Brumbaugh. It was recently published by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, 2950 Niles Road, St. Joseph, Mich. It has a complete chapter on Case cars. Also there are two Case collector clubs, each with a news magazine with a lot of information on Case machinery and cars. They are the J.I. Case Collectors Association, Inc., 4004 Coal Valley Road, Vinton, Ohio 45686, and the International J.I. Case Heritage Foundation, Inc., 5990 Byron Road, Howell, Mich. 48843.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Herbert Wessel, 2200 Fairmount Road, Hampstead, Md. 21074 (ph 410 374-2273).



Webster has used "junk" parts to build a wide variety of toys including thresher, wagon, road grader, etc. (above) and tractors (below).

